



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

News Release

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For Immediate Release: September 1, 2004

04-64

SOME FLU VACCINE DELAYED
Minimal Affect on Vaccination Efforts Anticipated

HONOLULU - One of three manufacturers of flu vaccine announced last week that some of its vaccine does not meet the company's standards of quality. To maintain the highest standard of safety as required for vaccines distributed in the United States, Chiron Corporation will destroy the affected Fluvirin® vaccine doses. As a precaution, Chiron is in the process of retesting all remaining lots to ensure vaccine safety. None of the affected doses were released for distribution.

The additional testing will delay release of Chiron's flu vaccine until early October. However, based on currently available information, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) anticipates the delay of Chiron's influenza vaccine supply will have minimal impact on this season's flu vaccination efforts.

In fact, this year's total influenza vaccine supply will be greater than in any previous year (approximately 100 million doses of influenza vaccine projected). CDC is working closely with the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and flu vaccine manufacturers to carefully monitor the vaccine supply situation and to develop contingency plans, should they be needed.

Influenza is a serious disease that can be easily transmitted from person to person. Over 114,000 people are hospitalized and 36,000 die each year in the United States from the flu. Flu

(more)

shots are recommended for those at high risk of becoming seriously ill from the flu. It is also recommended for close contacts or household members of high-risk individuals.

Who should get a flu shot ?

- **Infants aged 6 to 23 months**
- **Pregnant women**
- **People 50 years or older**
- **People with chronic (on-going) or long-term health problems, like diabetes, heart disease, kidney disease, asthma, cancer or HIV/AIDS**

Getting a flu shot is the best way a person can protect themselves and their loved ones against the flu. October and November are the ideal times to get a flu shot. Ask your doctor or call 2-1-1 for a clinic in your neighborhood or to find out when flu clinics will begin. Additional information is available at www.vaxhawaii.com.

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